

Native Village of Eyak Newsletter

P.O. Box 1388, Cordova, AK 99574 (907)424-7738 July, 1996

NVE ELECTIONS

The Native Village of Eyak would like to thank the candidates who ran for the two open Tribal Council Member positions this last June. We would also like to thank those of you who showed your involvement with the community by showing up to vote for your Council members. The results of the voting are as follows:

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|--------------|----|
| Ruth Hansen | 9 |
| Mark Hoover | 26 |
| Jack Hopkins | 19 |
| Glen Ujiska | 33 |

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark Hoover and Glen Ujiska. We look forward to working with our new Tribal Council members!

IKUMIT ALUTIIT DANCE GROUP

On Saturday, June 8, 1996 the IKUMIT ALUTIIT dance group presented their premier performance at the Masonic Hall. Lydia Robart, from Nauwalek, was in Cordova the week of June 3 - 8, instructing youth and adults in the cultural art of Aleut dance. Lydia was assisted by students Kelly Komploff, Matt Komploff, Deserac Stellwag, Angela Totemoff, Eli Totemoff, and Marci Totemoff, all from Tatitlek.

Approximately 30 children and 6 adults danced to the delight of a packed audience at the Masonic. Dressed in costumes embellished with beads and otter fur, they performed a variety of dances, including "Ala-Hey", "Kia Kitaaq" and several others.

After the performance, everyone enjoyed a potluck in honor of Lydia Robart, the student instructors from Tatitlek, and all of the participants.

The Ikumit Alutit dance group would like to thank Lydia, her son Floyd, and the student instructors for providing them with a stepping stone upon which to build their group. Also, the Tatitlek Corporation and staff deserve recognition for their financial contribution and support of this project. Mabel and Carol Komploff and Myra Allen all generously opened their homes to Lydia, her son, and the several student instructors.

Group coordinators Phyllis Sanford and Mary Bobic would like to thank those mentioned above, as well as the students attending the classes. More importantly, they would like to thank the parents for sending their children, and for realizing how important it is for our children to participate in all aspects of preserving our heritage. At the potluck, several donations were received from the audience. They hope to continue dance meetings, and to acquire additional funding to learn to make traditional headwear, including bentwood hats and beaded headdresses. They will be contacting parents with a schedule of meetings.

WELCOME ARLEENE OLSEN!

Chugachmiut and The Native Village of Eyak would like to welcome Arlene Olsen as the new half-time Community Health Representative. She is replacing Steve Donaldson, as he has been hired as the full-time drug and alcohol counselor for Chugachmiut. Arlene will be working with Myra Allen at the Village office.

DENTAL FUNDING

Chugachmiut has increased funding for Cordova dental services by an additional \$10,000 for this fiscal year. This request came from the Native Village of Eyak and Myra Allen - THANK YOU!

NATIVE FOSTER CARE

There is a great need for Native foster care parents. If you are interested or would like to find out if you are eligible, please contact Marlene Forni at 7738 or Wade Schock of the State of Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services at 7131.

HOMEBUYER'S OPTION

Are you interested in buying a house? Are you aware of all the different options out there? There are many things to know when you are buying a house. If you would like answers to your questions, Gerald Pilot, the Economic Development Planner at Chugachmiut, is willing to come to Cordova to hold a free workshop to discuss homebuyer's options and give tips on buying a house. For more information contact Diane at 7738.

Native Village of Eyak Newsletter SALMON DONATIONS

We would like to thank CDFU and Fish and Wildlife for donating salmon to our food bank. CDFU donated fish from the many donated by the fishermen, and Fish and Wildlife confiscated salmon and brought it to us.

We are still looking for salmon donations, however. We have a member who is willing to smoke salmon for our elders if we provide the fish. We do not have enough to do this yet. Please feel free to bring fish to the office any time Monday - Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Even one fish is a wonderful donation. It would be a great service for us to be able to do this for our elders who may not be able to go out and do this themselves any more. If you have any questions, please call Laura at the office at 7738.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT SOUND ALTERNATIVES

The Native Village of Eyak would like to welcome Ray Bocatch to Cordova. He is the new Substance Abuse Program Coordinator at Sound Alternatives. Ray moved to Cordova from Anchorage, where he worked at the Clitheroe Center as a counselor, doing one on one counseling, group therapies, intakes and assessments. Before that he worked for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation at an inpatient treatment facility called Jake's Place. While there, he worked both in Dillingham and Togiak. He ran the treatment program there and supervised a team of six. In Togiak, Ray focused on introducing alternate activities to help prevent drinking and driving. He also started a talking/healing circle in Togiak that is still going today. Ray left Jake's Place to move to Anchorage due to family medical problems.

When I asked Ray why he chose to move to Cordova and work here, he told me that he was uncomfortable living in a big city. According to Ray, when considering his various offers, he "left it up to my higher power to direct me, and ended up here". He has visited Cordova many times with the Sleeping

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Lady Dancers band, and already knew that he liked Cordova. I asked Ray what he likes about Cordova, and he said he liked the friendliness of the people. He also likes the way our separate agencies work together, like we work with the hospital, or the Family Resource Center.

Ray plans to work closely with our school system, and would like to educate parents to the warning signs of substance abuse in their children. He will also be working closely with Steve Donaldson with the youth. Ray strongly believes in incorporating talking and healing circles into recovery, and helps lead them in his spare time.

Once again, Welcome, Ray! We look forward to working with you!

NATIVE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Copper River/Prince William Sound Native Fishermen's Association has been organized to protect Native fishing rights that the indigenous people have had for thousands of years. If you are interested in joining, contact Bud Janson at 3748.

SEND OUR FISH TO JAPAN?

On Wednesday, July 10 an informal meeting was held to discuss the role of native fishermen's associations in the direct marketing of salmon between Alaska and Japan. Dr. John Sproul, Fisheries Economist & Sustainable Community Development Specialist, Mr. Naoyuki Tao, Principle of the Gyo Kyo Keiei Centre, a Japanese fisherman's association specialist, and Mr. Ryoji Matsueka, president of Matsueka Suisan - a salmon buying/processing company - came to Cordova to talk about the direct marketing of fish between Alaska and Japan. Mr. Matsueka discussed marketing and processing in Japan, and how they are handled. He explained that right now, 70% of the fish he buys comes from Alaska, and the other 30%

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is Chilean Coho. Matsueka does not buy all of his fish from Alaska because he said he cannot get a stabilized price, which he can in Chile year-round. An interesting fact we did learn from Mr. Matsueka is that in Japan, Copper River salmon is not sold at the markets - it is sold in department stores where only the highest quality (and highest priced) goods are sold. Of course, we already knew that Copper River salmon are the best in the world!

The sponsors for this meeting were the Copper River/Prince William Sound Native Fishermen's Association, The Native Village of Eyak, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, and The Bering Sea Commercial Fisheries Development Fund.

CRRC DEMYSTIFIED

By Patty Brown-Schwaleberg,
CRRC Executive Director

As of late, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) office has fielded a number of requests for additional information regarding the initiatives and projects developed by CRRC in cooperation with the Native villages in the Chugach region, as well as those initiatives our board has chosen to support. We are currently in the process of developing an informational brochure available for distribution to village councils, community members, state and federal agencies, and the general public to explain the mission of CRRC, its goals and current projects. The text of this brochure will be similar to the following text. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our initiatives in more detail, please feel free to contact your community's representative, Ms. Monica Riedel.

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charitable Native organization serving the Native people of the Chugach Region in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet, Alaska, in the areas of natural resource stewardship and economic development.

The CRRC was formed in 1984 as an effort to take a more active role in the resource management decision making process. The seven Native villages met and formed a statement of purpose, as follows:

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to insure the participation of Chugach Natives in the decision making processes that affect the land and sea and lives of the Chugach residents;

to provide formal advocacy to assure that private, state and federal land and resource management agencies will manage natural resources in ways consistent with the cultural traditions of the Chugach Native people, until such time as the tribal governments can take on the management activities themselves;

to enhance or provide educational opportunities for Chugach Natives in natural resource management issues in the Chugach Region;

to promote environmentally sound economic development that will improve the well-being of the Chugach people; and

to assure and promote the protection, preservation, conservation and prudent use and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources in the tribal traditional use areas of the Chugach Region.

In direct relationship to the purpose of CRRC, the Board of Directors has initiated several projects in the local communities. The benefits of these projects include research, education, and enhancement to local populations of specific species. Some of these projects are: The Port Graham Tribal Hatchery, the Nanwalek Sockeye Enhancement Project, the Tatitlek Mariculture Project, the Qutekcak Tribal Shellfish Hatchery, the Clam Restoration Project, the Smoked and Dried Fish Operation in Valdez, the Natural Resource Stewardship Development, and the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe/Alaska Native Educational Exchange Program for Traditional Natural Resource Management.

In addition to the above listed projects, CRRC provides technical assistance to its members in all aspects of natural resources, fundraising, tribal governance and exercise of sovereign authority, and acts of liaison and advocate for the village councils with state and federal agencies, including the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

In the administrative arena, CRRC operates a \$1.7 million dollar budget, in which \$1.2 million goes directly to the member villages for local programs

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operated by the tribes themselves. The remaining dollars are administered by the CRRC staff to those tribes requesting that service.

Approximately 12% of our total budget goes toward administrative costs. The Anchorage office is staffed with two individuals, and bookkeeping services are contracted to Mikunda, Cottrell and Co.

CRRC REPORT

Report from your Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) Representative, Monica Riedel. Last meeting held on May 6 and 7 in Anchorage at Chugachmiut.

The community reports from each village:

Chenega: Don Kempkoff, Rep. - Chenega has been involved in projects such as fish enhancement, vinyl siding their houses, and Don Kongkoff has been nominated to the Federal Subsistence Board. They are also involved in the Clam Project.

Qutekcak (Seward): received an ANA grant for the Shellfish Hatchery. Esther Reanne represented Qutekcak.

Tatitlek: Gary Kempkoff, Rep. - Tatitlek has many ongoing projects, such as their Oyster Farm (Ahiatiiq Pride), Salmon Enhancement, Processing Facility, and they have just had a successful "2nd Annual Cultural Heritage Week". Taylor Films is producing a documentary film on harbor seals and traditional uses based in Tatitlek. Tatitlek has a six pack licensing project. They started their clinic, their airport is done and the dock is finished.

Nanwalek: Arnold Melshiemer, Rep. - The fish hatcheries projects are continuing in Nanwalek (formally English Bay).

Patrick Norman reported that Port Graham has had a flurry of activity with their fish hatchery also. I was able to tour their facility. It was very well maintained and they are building and improving all the time.

The Chugachmiut Environmental Protection Consortium will concentrate their efforts on the Port

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Graham and Naswaik watersheds where subsistence activities remain an important part of village life.

The Native Village of Eyak's report included: The formation of the Copper River/Prince William Sound Native Fishermen's Association and it was well received by the other villages. Some time in July a meeting will be held here in Cordova with a Japanese Fish Specialist, Patty Brown and Dewey Schwanenberg.

I updated the group on the Harbor Seal Projects that we are currently involved in with EVOS. Bud Janson is currently working with Dave Daisey, the CRRC biologist, on the Clam Restoration Project. Mark King has been representing Chugach in the latest Sea Otter meetings.

Martha Vlassoff gave a presentation on the subsistence related proposals and how the Native communities can write letters of support for the proposals. Native Village of Eyak submitted several proposals thanks to the efforts of Bob Heinrichs, our community facilitator. Also, a big thank you is in order to Patty Brown Schwanenberg, Patience Paulkner, Mark King, Jim Totemoff, Iris O'Brien, Jessica and Jack Hopkins, Bud and Grace Janson, Glen Ujioke, Marty DeVille, Tina Fox, Terry Andersen, Mark Hoover, and many others who have been attending the planning meetings during the course of the winter to help establish what we can do as a tribe in the EVOS process. For more information regarding the EVOS process, contact Bob Heinrichs at 424-3604.

Since there is no Native Trustee at this time, the CRRC board passed a resolution to be a part of the planning committee which will oversee the reserve fund that the EVOS Trustee Council has established. Every year there will be a deposit of \$12 million into this fund. By the year 2001, the fund will have \$108 million.

Remember, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding this organization, please contact Monica Riedel, Eyak Representative at 424-1241, or Patty Brown Schwanenberg, CRRC Executive Director at (907) 562-6647.

Native Village of Eyak Newsletter FLEET INSURANCE

Tired of high insurance prices? The Native Village of Eyak has asked Griffin MacLean, Inc. to provide fleet insurance to the Village and its members. They have put together an extremely competitive Fleet Insurance Program with Underwriters for Prince William Sound Salmon Gillnetters. Many members of our tribe have already switched over to Griffin MacLean. We have applications for marine insurance at the office, as well as copies of the fleet rates and parameters. For more information, contact Laura at the Village office at 7718. It may save you a lot of money!

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

TEN WAYS TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Preventing child abuse should be everyone's concern. In your own community you can help to strengthen families who are responsible for the well-being of their children. Every small effort can bring big rewards and will make a difference in the quality of life in your community. Here are 10 ways to get started:

1. Support activities that raise public awareness during April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Contact a local agency for information on becoming involved.
2. Volunteer at a local child abuse program. Parent support groups, crisis center, and hotlines are typical programs that often welcome volunteers. Check your telephone directory for names of agencies in your area.
3. Report suspected abuse or neglect. Keeping children safe means that each of us has an obligation to inform authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that children are being harmed. Your concern may mean that children are protected from an abusive environment.
4. Advocate for services to help families. Communities need comprehensive services that

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address issues that affect families. Parenting programs, health care, and housing needs are all important to maintaining healthy children and families.

5. Speak up for non-violent television programming for children. Let local television stations and sponsors of network programs know that you consider excessive violence inappropriate for impressionable young viewers.
6. Make a contribution to a child abuse prevention organization. Your donations are put to good use in much needed community programs. Prevention services are critical to preventing child abuse and to strengthening families.
7. Help a friend, neighbor, or relative. Someone you know may be struggling with his or her parenting responsibilities. Offer a sympathetic ear or a helping hand. Assisting occasionally with child care or offering to locate sources of community help can be a tremendous boost to someone under stress.
8. Help yourself. Recognize the signs that indicate outside help is needed. If you feel overwhelmed, constantly sad, angry, and out of control, get some help. Remember, it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to ask for help.
9. Support and suggest programs on child abuse prevention sponsored by local organizations. Kiwanis Clubs, Exchange Clubs, PTAs, Church groups, and women's and men's clubs all offer excellent opportunities for raising public awareness in the community. In addition, several national organizations, including the National Black Child Development Institute and the National Indian Child Welfare Association, can assist communities in preventing child maltreatment.
10. Promote programs in schools. Teaching children prevention strategies can help to keep children safe from those who would perpetrate abuse on them.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Native Village of Eyak is a voter registration office. There is only four months left to register for this fall's voting, and in most elections, you must be registered for

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more than 30 days to be eligible to vote. Other places to register are at the DMV or City Hall.

NATIVE MEN

In June, Steve Donaldson attended a Native American Men's Gathering in Colorado. The gathering was held by White Bison, Inc. at a campground high in the Colorado Rockies. There was a tremendous group of Native men, women, children, and elders who attended from all over the country. Alaska Natives were well represented by many from throughout the state. Among the many interesting and uplifting things learned at this gathering, Steve brought back "Seven Philosophies for a Native American Man". To receive a copy of this, or to learn more of this gathering, contact Steve Donaldson at 7738.

ANY IDEAS?

Is there anything you would like to see in your newsletter that we're missing? Please let us know. We are always looking for suggestions!